

Message Text

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14

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DLOS-06 SAL-01 L-03 CG-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

FMC-01 EPA-01 JUSE-00 SP-02 /047 W

----- 111125

R 031445Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2068

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2558

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT

SUBJECT: FINE OF VESSEL OWNED BY AMERICAN SHIPPING COMPANY

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED "NOTE VERBALE" FROM MFA STATING THAT MERCHANT VESSEL ODISEY-IO, REGISTERED IN PIRAEUS, GREECE AND BELONGING TO THE NATIONAL SHIPPING AND TRADING CORPORATION, HAS BEEN FINED \$10,000 FOR POLLUTION OF BLACK SEA NEAR VARNA. OFFENSE OCCURRED SEPT 22, BUT FINE WAS NOT LEVIED UNTIL OCT 15. MFA HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY TO CONTACT COMPANY AND "ARRANGE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PENALTY" TO BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES.

2. OWNER OF VESSEL, NATIONAL SHIPPING AND TRADING CORP., 9 WEST 57TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10019, HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY LETTER OF OCT 18 STATING OFFENSE AND GIVING INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAYMENT OF FINE. GOB LETTER, ALONG WITH OFFICIAL STATEMENT AND PENAL DECREE, STATES THAT SHIP WAS INSPECTED AND FOUND TO HAVE PROPER POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT, AND MASTER WAS INSTRUCTED IN PROPER ANTI-POLLUTION PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IN LEAVING VARNA AREA. HOWEVER, UPON LEAVING, SHIP DISCHARGED OILY BILGE WATER THAT LEFT TWO KILOMETER OIL SLICK IN SHIP'S WAKE. ACT WAS VIOLATION OF
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ARTICLE 352A, P. 3 OF BULGARIAN PENAL CODE AND MASTER

HAS BEEN FINED \$10,000. LETTER INSTRUCTS COMPANY TO REMIT PAYMENT TO BANK ACCT. NO. 834601 OF DISTRICT INSPECTION FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION IN THE CITY OF VARNA.

3. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE SHIP WAS DETAINED OR THAT THE SHIP'S MASTER WAS AWARE THAT HE HAD BEEN FINED. GREEK EMBASSY HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS CASE AND HAS NOT BEEN CONTACTED BY SHIP MASTER IN ANY WAY. FACT OF THREE WEEK LAG BETWEEN OFFENSE AND FILING OF CHARGES SUGGESTS THAT SHIP MASTER MAY HAVE BEEN FINED WITHOUT BEING PRESENT OR EVEN KNOWING THAT HE HAD BEEN REPORTED FOR VIOLATION OF LAW.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY CANNOT HELP BUT NOTICE CLOSENESS OF EVENTS IN THIS CASE AND COOS BAY INCIDENT INVOLVING BULGARIAN FISHING VESSEL. OFFENSE WAS FILED ONLY FOUR DAYS AFTER CONCLUSION OF PROCEEDINGS AGAINST BULGARIAN VESSEL. REMAINDER OF LEGAL PROCESS OCCURRED QUICKLY, POSSIBLY INDICATING THAT INITIAL DELAY WAS NOT SIMPLY BUREAUCRATIC IN NATURE. END COMMENT.

5. EMBASSY IS POUCHING COPIES OF NOTE AND DOCUMENTATION AND REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT NOTIFY COMPANY TO INSURE THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF EVENTS AND GOB INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAYMENT OF FINE.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: ullricre
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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